

**State of Connecticut
Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities**



**Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 11, 2021
2:00 pm
Via Microsoft TEAMS**

Commissioners Present

Dr. Cherron Payne, Chair
Edward Mambruno, Secretary
Edith Pestana
Joseph Suggs
Lisa Giliberto
Nicholas Kapoor
Andrew Norton
Neeta Vatti

Staff Present

Tanya A. Hughes, Executive Director Cheryl Sharp, Deputy Director Neva E. Vigezzi, Supervisor Shawn Burns, Manager Darcy Strand, Legislative Analyst Emily Melendez, Asst Attorney General Monica H. Richardson, Executive Secretary	Jamie Rubin, Manager Spencer Hill, HRO Attorney Brian Festa, HRO Attorney Kristen Daniels, Executive Secretary
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I. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Cherron Payne, Presiding

The meeting convened at 2:01 p.m.

II. SECRETARY: Commissioner Edward Mambruno

Commissioner Giliberto moved to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2021 Regular Commission meeting and Commissioner Suggs seconded it; The vote: Yes (6) No (0), and Abstentions (1). The motion carried. The abstention was Commissioner Vatti.

III. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS –Vote Required
Deputy Director Cheryl Sharp presented the following plans:

Staff Recommendations: **Approval**

**Due to technical difficulties, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner AA summary was presented after the CT State Community College.*

1. CT STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Northwest Region

Representing the agency were Regional President, James Lombella, Ed.D., Nick D'Agostino, CSCU Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Darryl Reome, CEO, Tunxis Community College and Wendy Bovia, NW Region HR Director.

The plan was recommended for **Approval**:

Hiring goals out of possible total goals was N/A.

Promotion goals out of possible total goals was N/A.

Program goals out of possible total goals was N/A.

This is the first filing for this agency. There is no history to report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kapoor and seconded by Commissioner Giliberto to accept the staff recommendation to **approve** the plan of the CT State Community College, Northwest Region and retain annual filing status. The vote: Yes (7), No (0) and Abstentions (0). The motion carried.

2. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Representing the agency was Dr. Gill, Chief Medical Examiner

The plan was recommended for **Approval**:

The agency did not meet all or substantially meet all its hiring goals at 33%. There were no promotion goals, and the program goals were met at 50% (1 out of 2).

The Contract Compliance Set-Aside Program for FY 2019/2020 showed 6993.00% achievement for the SBE and 2180.00% achievement for the MBE.

The filing history is as follows: 2013, 2015, Approved, 2017, Disapproved and 2018 and 2019 Approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kapoor and seconded by Commissioner Suggs to accept the staff recommendation to **approve** the plan of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and retain annual filing status. The vote: Yes (7), No (0) and Abstentions (0). The motion carried.

IV. CONTRACT COMPLIANCE: REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION

Exelon CT Green Bank CHRO Project Exemption

Presented by Attorney Spencer Hill

A motion was made by Commissioner Norton and seconded by Commissioner Giliberto to **grant** the staff recommendation of the Exelon CT Green Bank for a term of 5 years, subject to early termination provisions. The vote: Yes (7), No (0) and Abstentions (0). The motion carried.

V. REQUEST TO REOPEN

Desirae Williams v. Southern CT State University

CHRO No. 2030395

Presented by Attorney Brian Festa

A motion was made by Commissioner Giliberto and seconded by Commissioner Suggs to accept the staff recommendation to grant the request to reopen case # 2030395, Desirae Williams v. Southern CT State University. The vote: Yes (7), No (0) and Abstentions (0). The motion carried

VI. DIVISION REPORTS

1. Executive Director Report: Tanya Hughes, Executive Director Submitted a detailed status report and production report for July.

2. Outreach Report: by Cheryl Sharp, Deputy Director
Highlights from the report include:

- Kid's Court Academy. – 8/31, (8/3, 8/17)
- CTRP3 Advisory Board
- Fair Housing Training
- Disparity Study
- Radio Show, WICC

3. Legislative update: Attorney Darcy Strand

- Detailed explanation of the Equity and Disparity studies
- Discussion on the legislative context for next session (2021-22)

***Commissioner Pestana and Commissioner Suggs exited the meeting at 3:17 pm*

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Requires a two-thirds vote of commissioners present and voting – staff and guests invited to attend must be noted)

Commissioner Kapoor moved to go into Executive session and Commissioner Vatti seconded it. The vote was: Yes (5), No (0) and Abstentions (0). The motion carried.

Invited into Executive Session with the Commissioners were Assistant Attorney General Emily Melendez, Executive Director Hughes, and Deputy Director Sharp.

Pending Litigation:

1. Wallace v. Sharp, et al
2. Johnson v. Hughes, et. al
3. Mica Notz v. CHRO

Return from Executive Session

Commissioner Norton moved to return from Executive session at 3:39 pm and Commissioner Mambruno seconded it. The vote was: Yes (5), No (0) and Abstentions (0). The motion carried.

VIII. VOTE ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Norton to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Kapoor seconded it. The vote was: Yes (5), No (0), and Abstentions (0). The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

***CT-N recorded the August 11 Regular Commission meeting.*